

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4369

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AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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GENEVA FOR WISNER

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS/PA

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TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH

SUBJ: ZAMBIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON GENEVA CONFERENCE:

1. ON THE EVE OF THE OPENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, OCT. 28, BOTH THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA AND THE DAILY MAIL CARRIED EDITORIALS ON DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE. THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA CAUTIONED AGAINST THE FRONTLINE STATES PUSHING FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT THE CONFERENCE. THE DAILY MAIL CALLED FOR THE NATIONALISTS TO TAKE A FLEXIBLE, BUT FIRM, REASONABLE BUT UNCOMPROMISING STANCE ON MATTERS OF FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES.

2. TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL OFFERED FOUR REASONS WHY THE FRONTLINE STATES SHOULD NOT PUSH FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT THE
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GENEVA CONFERENCE. FIRST, PSYCHOLOGICALLY, NO RHODESIAN

BLACK NATIONALIST REPRESENTATIVE WOULD HAVE THE NERVE TO SAY NO TO THE PRESENCE OF CERTAIN "OBSERVERS" EVEN IF INCLINED TO DO SO. SECONDLY, THERE SHOULD BE NO AUGUST GALLERY TO THE PROCEEDINGS WHICH MIGHT CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY INDICATE APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY NATIONALIST REPRESENTATIVES. THIRDLY, A POINT MUST BE REACHED PROMPTLY WHERE DELEGATIONS DROP THE RHETORIC AND VIEW ONE ANOTHER AS RHODESIANS. THIS PROCEESS COULD BE DELAYED BY DELEGATIONS PLAYING TO THE GALLERY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OBSERVERS WHOSE APPROBATION THEY SEEK. LASTLY, THE FRONTLINE STATES HAVE DONE ENOUGH TO GET THE NATIONALISTS WHERE THEY ARE AND SHOULD NOT OVERDO IT BY INSISTING ON SITTING AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE. EDITORIAL APPROVES THE PRESENCE OF FRONTLINE STATE REPRESENTATION OUTSIDE OF THE CONFERENCE FOR ANY "COLLECTIVE CONSULTATION" AND TO RENDER LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO THE NATIONALISTS, BUT WARNS AGAINST FRONTLINE PRESENCE STEALING THE SHOW OPENLY OR OFFERING TOO MANY ASIDES TO FAVORITES. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES GENEVA IS ABOVE ALL A RHODESIAN SHOW AND "IT IS PRUDENT TO REDUCE ALL POSSIBLE AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT INCLUDING OVER-COUNSELLING".

3. THE DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL OUTLINES THE ISSUES IT SEES FACING THE LEADERS AT GENEVA. FIRST, THE BRITISH MUST MAKE UP THEIR MIND IF THEY WANT TO DECOLONIZE RHODESIA OR NOT. BRITISH MUST APPRECIATE THAT SMITH IS IN GENEVA BECAUSE HE HAS NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE. SMITH MUST BE MADE TO ADMIT THAT THE GAME IS UP, AND, WHEN THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED, THE MECHANICES OF THE TRANSFER OF POWER CAN BE WORKED OUT. THE ONLY MEANINGFUL TRANSFER OF POWER INCLUDES THE CONTROL OF DEFENSE AND INTERNAL SECURITY IN THE HANDS OF THE MAJORITY. ON THIS THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISE, BECAUSE, LEFT IN THE HANDS OF THE MINORITY, THESE INSTRUMENTALITIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE TURNED AGAINST THE MAJORITY AND POWER WILL NOT HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED IN REALITY. IF THE NATIONALISTS DON T GET CONTROL OF THE POLICE AND THE ARMY AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE THEY WILL GET IT ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BEING IN THE LATTER CASE IS THERE WILL BE NO ONE "WITH WHOM THE AFRICANS WILL BE DUTY BOUND TO SHARE THE SPOILS". "THE STAND OF THE NATIONALISTS SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE, BUT FIRM, REASONABLE BUT UNCOMPROMISING ON MATTERS OF FUNDAMENTAL PRICIPLES AND ABOVE ALL, THEY MUST PUT THE

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INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA AS A WHOLE ABOVE PERSONAL POLITICAL GAIN." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES "WE WANT THE TALKS TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF OPPRESSION, ARROGANT SETTLERISM, COLONIALISM AND RCISM NOT ONLY IN RHODESIA, BUT ALSO IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS A WHOLE".
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